

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 02554 161515Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0893

INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, PEPR, EI

SUBJECT: LONDON DAILY MIRROR EDITORIAL ON UK

WITHDRAWAL FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

REF: BELFAST 158

1. REACTION HERE TO MIRROR EDITORIAL IS MUTED
THUS FAR. ALL PAPERS RAN ACCOUNTS OF EDITORIAL
BUT ONLY PUBLIC COMMENT IS AUGUST 15 EDITORIAL
BY IRISH PRESS (CLOSE TO RULING FIANNA FAIL
PARTY). EDITORIAL SAYS MIRROR'S CALL FOR UK
WITHDRAWAL WILL DO "CONSIDERABLE SERVICE" IF
IT GENERATES DEBATE ON NORTHERN ISSUE IN UP-
COMING BRITISH ELECTIONS. NOTING THAT LABOR
GOVERNMENTS OFTEN USE MIRROR TO FLOAT IDEAS,
IRISH PRESS EXPRESSES HOPE THAT THIS WILL
PROVIDE SPUR TO NEW EFFORT BY PRIME MINISTER
CALLAGHAN IF HE IS RETURNED TO OFFICE. "LET
US HOPE THAT...THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, BE IT
LABOR OR CONSERVATIVE, WILL BEGIN THE PROCESS
OF PHASED, ORGANISED, ORDERED WITHDRAWAL DESIGNED
TO PROVIDE THE BASIS OF A PERMANENT SOLUTION

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WITHOUT ATTENDANT BLOODBATH." IRISH PRESS ALSO
MENTIONS RUMOR THAT UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN
MIGHT REPLACE ROY MASON WITH EXPRESS PURPOSE OF
SUPERVISING A BRITISH WITHDRAWAL.

2. COMMENT: AN IRISH JOURNALIST KNOWLEDGEABLE
ABOUT NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE LONDON SCENES TOLD

US AUGUST 15 THAT HE PICKED UP THE RUMOR ABOUT
OWEN SOME WHILE BACK BUT NOW DOUBTS IT IS MORE
THAN THAT. THE JOURNALIST ALSO DOUBTS THE MIRROR
EDITORIAL WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT "BEYOND
STIRRING THINGS UP FOR A BIT." SHANNON

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Message Attributes

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